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NATURAL HISTORY AND COMMERCIAL HISTORY OF COTTON.

By THE SECRETARY.

Read January 13, 1835.

THE word cotton has been adopted into modern European languages from an Arabic word meaning the same thing, and which, when put into English letters, would be pronounced kutūn: in Egypt, it is called gotūn. The Spanish word, algodon, is evidently the Egypto-Arabic word with the article al prefixed. The Germans, who in general avoid intercalating into their language words of foreign origin, call it baum-wolle, tree-wool.

The name employed by systematic botanists to designate the genus of plants that yield the several kinds of true cotton is gossypium, which is the gossipion of Pliny's "Natural History," with hardly any change. This genus belongs to the Monadelphous class of Linnæus, and to the natural order of Malvaceous plants. It is characterised by the three long deeply cut segments into which its outer calyx is divided; by its large, handsome blossoms of five petals, of a yellow, orange, or reddish colour, with or without a central spot of a deeper tint; by its numerous stamens, united at their base; by its single style, with three or five stigmas; by its seed-vessel, divided into as many cells as there are stigmas; and by its seeds, of which several are contained in each cell, being completely covered by long down closely adhering to them. While the seeds are unripe, they remain covered over with their membranous capsule; but, after a time, this latter splits from the top downwards; and through this opening the seeds, enveloped in their down, push out, forming light balls of the purest white, or of pale yellow, or of reddish brown of various shades, which, if not gathered, are soon afterwards blown away by the winds and dispersed. The leaves of the plant are set alternately, are rather large, and are divided into three or five lobes, often deeply cut, like vine-leaves. The plant itself is sometimes herbaceous, sometimes shrubby, and sometimes has the stature of a small tree.

The cotton plant is very impatient of cold; and is therefore found, whether in a wild or cultivated state, only in the intertropical regions, and the warmest parts of the temperate zones. Its extreme northern limit in Asia is formed by the Himalaya mountains, the Caucasus, and the Black Sea. In Europe it is confined to the more southern of the Mediterranean islands, and to a few sheltered districts on the shores of Spain, Italy, and Greece. In America it is hardly found higher than North Carolina. Its southern limits on the same continent are Chili and Brazil; and in the Indian Ocean, the islands north of New Holland. It is also found in Otaheite, and in several other of the groups of small islands that stud the surface of the southern Pacific Ocean.

In the old world, cotton appears to be an original native of the countries east of the Indus; but at what time it there began to be cultivated and manufactured into cloth is, I believe, wholly unknown. In the account given in the Book of Kings of the commerce of the Jews in the reign of Solomon, it is stated that fine linen was one of the imports from Egypt; but, in the account given of the commodities brought by the trading fleet of that monarch on the Red Sea, there is no mention made of any thing that can possibly be interpreted to mean either raw or manufactured cotton.

The first distinct mention of cotton occurs in Herodotus (iii. 106), in his description of the products by which India was at that time characterised. "There are there," says he, "wild trees that bear wool on their fruit, which, in beauty and goodness, excels that from sheep; and from these trees the Indians obtain the material of their clothing." It does not appear that Herodotus himself ever travelled into India, but he may have got the particulars which he mentions concerning that country when he was in Egypt.

The expedition of Alexander the Great added considerably to the knowledge which the Greeks possessed of India and its productions; for that prince, after subduing Persia, pushed on to the banks of the Indus, crossed that river, defeated the king of the adjacent territory, built a fleet with which he personally explored the Indus to its mouth, and then committed it to the care of his admiral, Nearchus, who conducted it to the Persian Gulf. Both Alexander and Theophrastus were pupils of Aristotle, the father of scientific natural history; and Theophrastus derived, no doubt, from those who accompanied Alexander, many interesting particulars respecting the vegetable productions of India, which he has inserted in his work on plants. He says (iv. ch. 4), "The trees from which the Indians make cloth, have a leaf like that of the mulberry: they plant them in the fields, arranged in rows; so that, at a distance, they look like vines." He also (iv. ch. 7) notices the growth of cotton, not only in India, but in Arabia, and in the islands called Tylos (now Bahrein), in the Persian Gulf. "The wool-bearing trees," adds he, "which grow abundantly in this island, have a leaf resembling that of the vine, only smaller; and the only fruit that they bear is a capsule, about the size of the μῆλον ἐαρινὸν, which, when ripe, opens and allows the wool to come out: this it is which is woven into cloth of various qualities, some cheap and others very costly." The testimony of Nearchus himself is also preserved by Arrian and Strabo, to the following effect; namely, that "there are in India trees bearing, as it were, flocks or bunches of wool; that the natives, having made it into cloth resembling linen, form of it their dress, which consists of a shirt reaching to the middle of the leg, a piece loosely folded about the shoulders, and a turban rolled round the head; and that this linen is finer and whiter than any other."

Aristobulus, also, one of Alexander's generals, as quoted by Strabo, mentions the wool-bearing tree of India, and that its capsule contains seeds, which, being taken out, what remains is combed like wool.

From the vicinity of Persia to India, it would naturally be expected that fabrics of cotton should, in very early times, be transmitted from the latter to the former of these countries; and, accordingly, the first notice extant of manufactured cotton, appears in the Book of Esther (ch. i.), about 500 years before the Christian era, and 170 years before the conquest of Persia by Alexander. Ahasuerus, king of Persia, whose territories are stated to have extended from India to Ethiopia, made a great feast at Susa. Tents were pitched in the garden of the palace, of "white, green, and blue," according to our common English version. The word translated "green," is in the original *Karpās;* and this very word is the Sanscrit name of cotton, and is also one of its modern names at the present time in Bengal. The same word also occurs in a Greek and Latin form (καρπασος and carbasus), in writers of the Augustan age, for cloth brought from India and Persia; and which, from the context, cannot mean any thing than manufactured cotton of fine quality, similar, probably, to Indian muslin.

The conquests of Lucullus, Sylla, and Pompey, which added Asia Minor, Syria, and the adjacent territories, to the possessions of Rome, introduced to that capital various articles of luxury and convenience, and, among others, that of cotton cloth; which, as I have just now mentioned, was designated by the Sanscrit and Persic word karpās, put into a Latin form. Thus Cicero, in his oration against Verres, cites, as a proof of his inordinate luxury when prætor in Sicily, that he used tents with curtains of carbasus or muslin. Strabo, likewise, in his Geography, written in the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, makes mention of καρπασος as forming part of the dress of the Indians. Finally, the author of the Periplus of the Erythræan Sea, so ably commented by the late Dr. Vincent, mentions that the countries on the Gulf of Barygaza* in India, produce καρπασος, and cloths made of it, in which the word καρπασος must be understood to mean raw cotton. These cloths, according to the same author, were imported into Egypt.

The last ancient writer that I shall cite on the present occasion is the elder Pliny, who lived between the years 23 and 79 of the Christian era. In that part of his

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* Baroche in Guzerat, where muslins and chintzes are still made.

Natural History in which he describes the vegetable products of India and the adjacent countries, after giving an account from Theophrastus of the cotton trees of the island of Tylos, he adds, probably from some Greek author now lost, that they (the natives of Tylos, I presume) call these trees gossympines (Arbores vacant gossympinos, xii. 21). Again, in his description of flax and its manufacture, he introduces the following account of cotton (xix. 2): "In the upper part of Egypt, bordering on Arabia, grows a shrub which some call gossipion, but its more usual name is xylon, of which is made tree-flax (lina xylina). It is of low growth, and bears a fruit not unlike a filberd, from the inside of the shell of which is obtained a down that is spun into thread, which yields to none in whiteness and softness. Cloth made of this material is preferred by the Egyptian priests to every other." On this latter passage it may be remarked, that no part of Upper Egypt can, properly speaking, be said to be bordering on Arabia; since these two countries are separated at least by the Red Sea, even if the term Upper Egypt be not confined to the valley of the Nile from the point of the Delta to Syene, but be extended eastward to the shore of the Red Sea, so as to make it commensurate with the Roman limits of Upper Egypt. We are quite certain, also, that neither in Upper nor in Lower Egypt was cotton cultivated till many centuries later. It was grown in Arabia and Syria before it was introduced into Egypt; and this was not from the unfitness of the soil or climate for the growth of cotton, but for the obvious reason that, while Egypt possessed the monopoly of the Indian trade, manufactured cottons, and perhaps also cotton wool, were imported at a price which might discourage all attempts to raise the raw material in any part of Egypt. That the passage above cited was written by some one who had seen the cotton-plant actually growing, is evident from his comparing the unripe seed-vessel to a filberd or hazel-nut; since the long and deeply divided segments of its outer calyx bear no slight resemblance to the husk of the nut. Pacatus, who, in the year 388, addressed an oration to Theodosius the Great, takes occasion in it to mention the luxury of Antony's army in Egypt, previous to the battle of Actium; describing them as scarcely enduring a loose garment of cotton cloth to protect them from the rays of the sun.* Now if there is any authority for this statement, it is evident that, at the time when Pliny wrote, cotton cloth must have been sufficiently plentiful in Egypt for the use of the priests. It is on the authority of this passage in Pliny that persons have expected to find cotton cloth made use of as the wrappings of Egyptian mummies; presuming, with much probability, that a material worn and highly esteemed by the priests would have a certain degree of sacredness attached to it, and therefore would be employed in preference to linen for wrapping up the embalmed bodies of the dead. It does not, however, appear how long it was before Pliny wrote that the Egyptian priests had begun to wear cotton. The practice of embalming seems to have gradually declined, and to have quite ceased about a century before the death of Pliny; if, therefore, the priests of Egypt adopted the use of cotton not long before the Roman conquest of that country, the above argument or presumption does not apply. Many persons, however, from their own personal examination of different mummy-cloths, have been inclined to consider several of them as made of cotton: of this opinion was M. Larcher, the learned translator and commentator of Herodotus, and the late Dr. Reinhold Forster, in his Tract " De Bysso Antiquorum," not to mention many more modern authorities. The question, however, now seems to have been set at rest by the joint labours of Mr. James Thompson and Mr. Bauer, the result of which has lately been laid before the Royal Society by the former of those gentlemen, and to whose paper I am indebted for the following observations.

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* Vix leve carbasum vitando sole tolerantes.—*Panegyr. Thedos.* c. xxxiii.

After endeavouring, without success, to determine this question by the aspect of the numerous specimens which he had an opportunity of examining, by their power of conducting heat, and by other empirical modes, Mr. Thompson had recourse to Mr. Bauer, expecting, from that gentleman's skill in the use of the microscope, and in delineating objects viewed under high magnifiers, to obtain some specific and permanent characters which should distinguish indubitably between the fibres of cotton and of linen. In this expectation he appears not to have been disappointed. Mr. Bauer found that the filament of cotton, gathered before the seed ripens, is a transparent, simple, cylindrical tube; but, as soon as the seed is mature, even before the bursting of the capsule, the tube collapses longitudinally down the middle, so as to form two imperfect smaller tubes, the transverse section of which resembles a figure of eight; this gives to the fibre, when viewed in a certain light, the appearance of a flat riband with a raised border at each edge. These collapsed fibres also twist in somewhat irregular spirals round their own axis, the number of twists being from 300 to 800 in an inch. The figure just described is retained by the fibre of cotton through all the processes of carding, spinning, weaving, bleaching, and dyeing, that it goes through; nor does it lose this characteristic form even after long wear and being finally subjected to the rough treatment of the paper-maker.

The ultimate fibre of flax, on the other hand, is a transparent cylindrical tube, with transverse markings, which form it preserves without variation. The result of Mr. Bauer's examination of a multitude of specimens of mummy-cloth is, that they are all entirely composed of linen. I may add, that another equally satisfactory character, not depending on the use of high magnifiers, but obvious to every one, and of easy application, may be derived from the length of the fibre. The staple or fibre of cotton is never longer than an inch and a half or two inches, while the fibres of flax, when combed and prepared for spinning, are always several inches long.

Conceiving that it would add to the interest of this part of our subject, I requested Mr. C. Varley to make for me magnified drawings of some other vegetable fibres. This he has obligingly done, and the drawings are now before you. The first of these is the Ochroma lagopus, formerly ranked as a species of Bombax, or silk-cotton; and, in its natural affinities, connected with the genus Gossypium, or true cotton. The only circumstance of difference necessary at present to be mentioned is, that whereas in the cotton the down is closely adherent to the seed, in the ochroma it adheres to the inner angles of the capsule, covering the seeds, but not connected with them. The drawing before you is from the species with brown down, which is a native of the West Indies; another species, with white down, grows in China and other parts of Southern Asia. In this you will observe that the fibre is a hollow, cylindrical, or rather conical tube, that some of the fibres, or parts of the fibre, present a circular figure in the horizontal section, while others undergo a collapse and get a spiral twist, much in the same manner as the fibre of cotton does.

The second drawing represents a fibre of the seed-down of a species of Asclepias, a native of Canada. Each fibre is a transparent tube of one cell, which dries sometimes without any change of form, sometimes collapses on one side, sometimes folds in small parallel longitudinal plaits, and sometimes presents compound spiral plaits.

The third drawing shews the common cotton rush, as it is generally called, the Eriophorum angustifolium of botanists. It grows in the wettest parts of almost every bog in the kingdom, especially in the northern counties. The white shining hairs or down adhere to the bottom of each seed, and, from their flattened, complex, cellular figure, appear to have a structure nearly approaching to that of leaves.

In another drawing is represented the fibre of raw flax, cylindrical, and with transverse markings like Mr. Bauer's, but differing from this latter in the comparative smallness of its interior hollow, and in the ultimate fibrous structure.

The fibre of the Phormium tenax, or New Zealand flax, has a cylindrical form, and a hollow axis like common flax; but it is harder and more elastic, and exhibits nothing of a fibrous structure.

The figure of the fibre of cotton was taken from a lock to which the seed adhered, and, therefore, which had never undergone any manipulation.

But, to return from this digression.

I have now laid before you the most important notices which are to be found in the ancient classical authors, respecting the growth of cotton in India and on the coast of Arabia, and the importation of cotton fabrics of various quality from India to Egypt, by the way of the Red Sea. The next division of our subject is the establishment of the culture of the cotton plant, on the coasts of the Mediterranean: but, on this very interesting head of inquiry, I have only a very few scattered notices to offer, and I believe that more precise information is not extant. The most western *habitat* of cotton, mentioned by ancient writers, is the island of Tylos or Bahrein, in the Persian Gulf, as I have already stated; and, from Theophrastus's description of the plant, it seems to have been the species now called Gossypium arboreum, or tree-cotton. The island Tylos being almost in the direct route from India to the Red Sea, it is not improbable that this species of cotton was the first the introduction of which was attempted: and it is perhaps some confirmation of this supposition that Belon, who visited Egypt about the middle of the sixteenth century, describes this species of cotton as growing in Arabia, near Mount Sinai. Prosper Alpinus, who was in Egypt a few years later than Belon, mentions that the Gossypium arboreum is grown in Egypt only in gardens, and that its down is not used there for spinning; but that the Arabians make a cloth of it, which they call Sessa. In fact, the down of this species of cotton is short, and of a very inferior quality, which may account for its very slow and partial introduction. Its inferiority to the herbaceous cotton (Gossypium herbaceum) is evident from a circumstance mentioned by Prosper Alpinus; namely, that while this was already growing in the gardens of Egypt, the whole of the cotton used in that country was imported from Syria and Cyprus, and was the produce of the Gossypium herbaceum.

The culture of this herbaceous cotton seems first to have passed from India into Persia, whence it spread into Syria, into Asia Minor, especially the neighbourhood of Smyrna, and finally into the islands of Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Sicily, and some of the small islands of the Archipelago. About the year 800, cotton was employed in Greece as a material for paper.* It does not appear that any of the Levant countries had the art of manufacturing the cotton grown by them into other than loose and coarse cloths, for domestic use: for cotton, on account of the shortness and tenderness of its staple, is, for spinning by hand, decidedly inferior to flax, and also to wool, from the straightness of its fibre, and its being incapable of felting.

Cotton wool was imported by the Genoese and Venetians into England and the Netherlands in the very beginning of the fourteenth century, and perhaps earlier; but the use to which it was applied, except for candlewicks, is not known. In 1430, fustians were made, perhaps invented, in Flanders; being probably intended as an imitation of the velvets manufactured in Italy. These fustians, however, were of a mixed material, the warp being linen thread, and the shoot only of cotton; the requisite firmness and closeness of texture being given by the former, and the fullness and softness of feel by the latter. In the year 1534, several ships from London and Bristol traded to the Levant, and imported, among other articles, cotton wool. It might be expected, therefore, that at this time some cotton fabrics should have been established in England: and this seems, at first sight, to be confirmed by a statement in Leland's "Itinerary," in the reign of Henry VIII., that cottons were made at Bolton-le-Moors, in Lancashire, and the villages about; as also by the mention, in an act of parliament passed in 1552 (Edward VI.), of Manchester, Lancashire, and Cheshire cottons. The title of the act, however, is "for the true making of *woollen* cloths;" and Camden, in his Survey, written in 1590, when speaking of Manchester, says, it excels the towns around "by the glory of its woollen cloths, which they call Manchester cottons." Also, in an act of parliament passed in 1566 (8 Elizabeth), mention is made of the drapers of Shrewsbury "buying and selling of Welsh cloth and linen, commonly called Welsh cottons, frizes, and plains," which latter words, being considered as explanatory of the term Welsh cottons, seem to shew that they were woollen cloths; and accordingly the word cotton, used in the above expressions, has been considered only as a corruption of the word *coating*, just as a particular kind of woollen cloth is at present called Bath coating.

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* Parcamena Græca quæ fit ex lana ligni.—THEOPHYL. *Presbyter.*

I confess, however, that I am by no means satisfied with this explanation. Raw cotton is always called cotton *wool;* and although in Lancashire and Cheshire, where this manufacture was established, they appear to have distinguished by name cottons from woollen cloth, yet they would naturally be willing enough to get cloth of cotton wool confounded, in acts of parliament, with cloth of sheep's wool, in order to place it in the same scale with this latter, with respect to the custom-house duties.* It is, I think, a further confirmation of the opinion which I have hazarded, that, when the manufacture of fustians and dimities was introduced into this country in 1641, by Protestant refugees from the Netherlands, they established themselves in Bolton and Manchester, although they had to convey from London, on the backs of pack-horses, the cotton wool, and to return the manufactured article by the same tedious and expensive conveyance; and for which there seems to be no assignable motive, except that in those towns workmen were to be found already in the habit of carding, spinning, and weaving cotton.

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* The term "Welsh cottons," in the act of parliament above cited, is evidently intended as an explanation of the preceding expression, "Welsh cloth and linen;" and of these there were two kinds, the frized and the plain. Mixed fabrics of linen and *sheep's* wool could not be here intended, because there already existed the term linsey-woolsey, expressive of such;

Of the two great geographical discoveries at the end of the 15th century—namely, the discovery of the American continent, and of the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope—the latter began to affect, and soon extinguished, the East Indian commerce up the Red Sea, and with it the importation into Europe of manufactured cottons by that route. The former, although it offered to the naturalist and to the manufacturer some new species of cotton indigenous to that continent, seems to have produced no effect on the European cotton market for at least 150 years; for, in 1641, the importation of cotton into England was exclusively from the Levant. From this circumstance, some persons have doubted whether the cotton, now found wild and cultivated in America, was not conveyed thither from the East Indies, subsequent to its discovery by Columbus; but, in Gomara's history of

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and I have little doubt that the cloths here mentioned were of the same kind as those of which the Society possesses specimens from Upper Assam and elsewhere, of which the shoot is a loose roving of cotton, and the warp a coarse linen. Some of these have the nap raised, and therefore are *frizes;* others have not undergone this process, and are *plains.* They are of a texture to serve as a tolerable substitute for light blankets.

the conquest of the West Indies by the Spaniards, it is expressly stated that the corselets of the natives were made of cotton wool, and that their priests were clothed in white robes, like surplices, made of cotton cloth. Pietro Martire also states, that the natives sleep on " certain mattrasses made of the cotton of gossampine trees, which grow plentifully in these islands. This cotton," adds he, " the Spaniards call algodon." A still more convincing proof that certain species of cotton are indigenous in America, is afforded by Mr. Cumming's discovery of raw cotton and of manufactured cotton in the ancient tombs of the natives of Peru, specimens of which I am enabled to exhibit this evening, by the kindness of Dr. Robert Brown. In the latter half of the seventeenth century, cotton began to be produced for the supply of the European markets in the West Indies, in Brazil, and in the Dutch, French, and Portuguese colonies in Guiana; and probably about this time the culture of the fine cotton of Siam was introduced into America, as being of better quality than the indigenous species, or than those that had been transplanted from the Levant. But the European demand was as yet very languid, and was chiefly supplied from the Mediterranean; the average annual importation of cotton into Great Britain from all sources, between the years 1700 and 1705, not amounting to 1,200,000 pounds weight.

I have not access to any documents for ascertaining the importation of cotton into Great Britain, from the year 1705 to 1780, but up to 1760 it had increased very slowly; for the value of all the cotton goods manufactured in Great Britain, in the course of that year, was not estimated at more than £200,000.

As the great improvements in the machinery of cotton-spinning commenced soon after this period, the present seems to be the proper place to state, in a few words, the difference between cotton fabrics from India and those made in Europe, and especially in England, at that time. The Indian cottons were entirely of this substance, both warp and shoot; the delicate and flexible fingers of the Hindoos, assisted perhaps by a hereditary aptitude, being able to produce, merely by the rock and distaff, yarn of exquisite fineness, and yet strong enough to be employed as warp: the cotton itself, too, was finer, of longer staple, and more silky than that produced in the Levant. The European fabrics, on the contrary, had all of them a warp of flax, the shoot only being of cotton; and this latter was of so soft and loose a consistence, that it would not answer even for shoot unless it was of a certain thickness, the shortness of the staple and the mode of spinning it being alike incapable of producing fine yarn.

Mr. Hargreaves led the way in the great change that was now about to take place, by the invention, in 1767, of the spinning-jenny or engine, which draws several threads at once; and, as it derives its principal motion from a mechanical first mover, produces them more even than had heretofore been done by hand. It was soon discovered that an improved method of carding the cotton before it was subjected to the action of the jenny, was essential to the good performance of this machine; this was attempted, with some success, by Mr. Hargreaves, was very much improved on by Mr. Peel, and was brought to perfection in the carding machine of Mr. Arkwright, invented by him in 1775. Previous to this, however, in 1771, Mr. Arkwright invented his spinning machine, which, to all the advantages of the jenny, superadded the power of twisting the yarn hard enough to serve for warp; the result of which was, that, in 1773, calicoes—that is, cloths of moderate fineness, *both the warp and shoot of which were of cotton*—first began to be manufactured in England. Lastly, Mr. Crampton soon afterwards invented the mule, a combination, as its name indicates, of the jenny and spinning frame, capable of producing fine yarn for weft or shoot, and thus laid the foundation of the manufacture of British muslins.

These great inventions were all made in the course of about ten years; but it will be understood that almost each succeeding year introduced subordinate improvements, by simplifying and giving more precision to the machinery, by economizing time, and improving the quality of the produce.

The activity of those who engaged in the commercial department of this new manufacture, as it may very properly be called, soon enlarged prodigiously the domestic market, and pushed its sale into all the countries of the European continent. The consequence of this was a greatly increased and rapidly augmenting demand for the raw material, enriching the countries where cotton was already cultivated, and encouraging enterprising persons to attempt its culture wherever climate and local situation offered a fair probability of success. In the years 1781, 2, 3, the average annual importation of raw cotton had increased to above eight million pounds weight; and, in 1786, only three years after, to nearly twenty million pounds. Of this latter supply, 5·8 millions were from the British West Indies; 5·5 millions, from the French and Spanish colonies; 2 millions, from the Portuguese colonies, chiefly Brazil; 1·6 millions, from the Dutch colonies; and 5 millions, from Smyrna and other parts of the Turkish dominions.

Soon after the conclusion of the American war for Independence, the planters of Georgia and Carolina began to turn their attention to the growth of cotton; and, in the year 1790, they began for the first time to supply the British market. It was found that the cotton grown on certain parts of the sea-coast of these states, and on the islands that border the shore, is superior in fineness of fibre, lustre, and length of staple, to any that had hitherto made its appearance in the European market. It goes by the name of Sea-islands' cotton, and, when clean, commands a price double that of any other, being used for muslins and other fabrics of the highest quality. The cotton grown in the interior of these States is called upland, or bowed; but the seed adheres to the fibre so tenaciously, that the difficulty of separating it by the common ginning machine seemed at first an insuperable obstacle to its being cultivated with any adequate return of profit. At length, however, Mr. Whitney, a native of the United States, invented a machine called a saw-gin, which overcomes the difficulty; and as this cotton, together with that grown in the valley of the Mississippi, and known by the names of New Orleans and Alabama cotton, is of a quality suitable to the better kinds of calicoes, this discovery has proved of immense value to the cotton planters, by far the greater part of the raw cotton manufactured in Europe being now the produce of these States.

In the year 1812, the import of cotton wool into Great Britain amounted to above 63 million pounds weight; and, as the demand seemed continually increasing, some of the private merchants trading to India brought the next year, into the market, a small quantity of Surat cotton. It proved to be much inferior in staple and in cleanness to the American cotton, and was sold for a proportionably low price. It answered, however, for the lowest qualities of cotton cloth; and the demand has gone on steadily increasing, till at present it ranks the third for quantity in the British market, with some improvement both in quality and in cleanness.

In the year 1823, the amount of raw cotton imported into Great Britain had increased to above 183 million pounds weight; and in this year, for the first time, Egyptian cotton made its appearance in the English market. It proved to be of a long, strong, and silky staple, and has since been improved by the introduction of seeds of the Sea-islands' cotton. It is employed in the finer manufactures, but is of second quality, as it is more difficult to bleach than other cotton, and, in consequence, the colours that it takes in dying are somewhat inferior.

Since the year 1823, to the present time, the demand for raw cotton in the British market has gone on progressively increasing. It is, however, unnecessary, considering to how slight a sketch of this important subject my allotted time confines me, to cite the particulars of any of the intervening years; I shall therefore conclude by stating, in detail, the importation of cotton wool for the last year (1834), which is as follows: —

252,885,000	Uplands and New Orleans	262,385,000;
9,500,000	Sea Islands	
26,540,000	Brazil	
11,570,000	Surat and Bengal	
1,610,000	West Indies	
1,540,000	Egypt	
303,645,000	lbs.	

On comparing the above with the importation of 1831, it appears that there is an increase in the last year in the proportion of 303 to 288; but that the quantity furnished from all the above-mentioned countries, except the United States, has diminished.